Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri.—(b). May I know whether the works can be taken up next year?

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—I do not think we will be able to take up the works next year.

Mr. Paul Mampilli.—What is the length of the road?

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—A mile and a half.

Mr. Paul Mampilli.—Is it not a centre of business in the locality?

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—It is.

Mr. Paul Mampilli.—What is the distance from Karanchira to Thazhakkad?

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—About two miles.

Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri.—Is the Government satisfied of the usefulness of the road?

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—Government are satisfied that the road will be useful, but it is not of such a pressing necessity as to spend large amount of money at this time of financial stringency.

Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri.—What will be the approximate amount necessary?

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—On a rough calculation it comes to about Rs. 10,000.

Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri.—If lands are surrendered free?

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—Lands cost only Rs. 1,500. There are two big culverts to be built and it is a place subject to floods and therefore rigid precautionary measures will have to be taken. Government may not be able to find funds next year.

Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri.—Am I to understand that Government will not take it up?

Mr. P. V Raphael.—It means only that it cannot be taken up now.

Expending the Ophthalmic section of the Trichur Civil Hospital.

396. Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether it has any idea of expanding the Ophthalmic section of the Trichur Civil Hospital in the near future;

(b) whether Government has realised the urgency for the same?

Dr. D. Reghavendra Rao.—(a) Improvements in this direction have been included in the General Scheme of Improvement to the Civil Hospital, Trichur, but when they will be

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sanctioned, rests upon the financial condition of the Government, as several such demands have to be met.

(b) Government has realised the necessity for the same though the matter cannot be classified as urgent.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—May I know who is in direct charge of the Ophthalmic section?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—Dr. Thomas.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—Is he in the permanent service or an honorary worker?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—He is an honorary worker.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—Is the temporary establishment able to cope with the work?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—Yes.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—May I know when this general scheme of improvement was sent up?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—About a year and a half ago.

Application for study leave from Sub-Assistant Surgeons.

397. Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether any of the Sub-Assistant Surgeons in the State Medical Service have applied for study leave this year; and

(b) whether such leave has been refused to any of them; and if so, why it was refused?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes. To Sub-Assistant Surgeon Mr. K. Kochunny Menon. He is already 49 years old and could therefore serve the Darbar only for 3 or 4 years after his studies. The Government did not therefore think it worthwhile to grant him the leave.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—May I know if there is any age-limit in the matter of granting study leave?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—There is no specific age-limit; but under the 82nd list of corrections, as regards study leave, it is distinctly stated that study leave may be granted for higher studies in India or outside, provided it is in the public interest that the officer is pursuing the studies.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—Is it against public interest of the Medical Department that these officers should not go for higher studies?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—It is so in general.

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